## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /081 W

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R 221540Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 571 INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, US, CF

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF REPUGNANT CONGOLESE PRESS ARTICLE

- 1. CHARGE CALLED ON CONGOLESE LABOR PARTY DIRECTOR FOR EXTERNAL RULATIONS WITH CAPITALIST COUNTRIES, FEVILIYE-MBIMPA, MAY 15, TO COMPLAIN ABOUT MAY 10 ARTICLE IN CONGOLESE PARTY PAPER, ETUMBA, REGARDING PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT VISIT TO AFRICA. CHARGE SAID THAT ARTICLE (COPY POUCHED AF/C-KATES) UNFORTUNATELY QUESTIONS SINCERITY OF US POLICY, CONTAINS MANY GROSS INACCURACIES, AND CLEARLY WAS NOT RESEARCHED BY CONGOLESE THEMSELVES. IT DID NOT REFLECT WHAT LEADERS OF THE LABOR PARTY, INCLUDING PRESIDENT YHOMBY-OPANGO, HAVE INDICATED TO BE DESIRED DIRECTION OF US-CONGOLESE RELATIONS. FURTHER, CHARGE ADDED, HAD A SIMILAR ARTICLE APPEARED IN PRIVATE US PRESS, CRITICIZING PRESIDENT YHOMBY-OPANGO, WE ARE SURE CONGOLESE AMBASSADOR IN THE US WOULD HAVE BEEN UPSET INDEED. (BRAZZAVILLE 431).
- 2. FEVILIYE-MBIMPA APOLOGIZED PROFUSELY, SAID HE ALREADY HAD BROUGHT UP MATTER WITH HIS SUPERIORS AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTY, AND WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE AGREED THAT WHILE IT HAD TAKEN A WHILE FOR CONGOLESE TO GET USED TO OUR RETURN, ONE NO LONGER COULD EXCUSE SUCH AN ARTICLE. OBSERVING THAT IN PAST WEEKS, FRANCE, ITALY, THE FRG, AND EVEN THE USSR HAD MADE SIMILAR COMPLAINTS, FEVILIYE-MBIMPA PROMISED TO "TAKE ACTION REQUIRED." HE SPECIFIED THAT INCREASED CENSORSHIP NOW WOULD TAKE PLACE TO ASSURE SUCH

ARTICLES DID NOT APPEAR. CHARGE COMMENTED THAT WE DID NOT FAVOR PRESS CENSORSHIP, AND HOPED INSTEAD THAT JOURNALISTS COULD PUBLISH ACCURATE AND BALANCED STORIES ON THEIR OWN, DRAWING, IF DESIRED, ON INFORMATION WE HAVE OFFERED TO PROVIDE, PARTICULARLY WHEN U.S. IS DISCUSSED. FEVILIYE-MBIMPA REITERATED OUR POINT THAT WHAT APPEARS IN PARTY PAPER SHOULD REFLECT WHAT PARTY LEADERSHIP BELIEVES, ADDING THAT HOWEVER IMPLEMENTED, HE WOULD ASSURE THAT SIMILAR ARTICLES ARE NOT PRINTED IN THE FUTURE.

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